

REPORT

OF

THE VISITING JUSTICES

OF THE

COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM,

FORSTON, DORSET.

EPIPHANY SESSIONS, 1841.

DORCHESTER.

T. PATCH, COUNTY PRINTING OFFICE.

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R E P O R T.

SINCE the last Report, the whole of the alterations ordered at the last Easter Sessions, have been completed, and the new cells at the end of the upper galleries, both in the male and female wards, have been occupied for the last two months.

These improvements have tended greatly to the better regulation of the Asylum, as the patients in the upper gallery are now quite separate from those in the lower ward, and are enabled to proceed to their own airing court without mixing with the patients of a different class.

The alteration of the steam pipes in the new building, has also been carried into effect.

A boiler has also been placed at the back of the kitchen fire, and pipes leading from it into both the male and female wards, so that the keepers can have hot water at all times in the galleries without being obliged to go into the kitchen for it, which was formerly a great inconvenience.

The steam has also been brought into the back kitchen to one of the large coppers where the potatoes and soup are cooked : the whole of these alterations have been done under the superintendence of a man sent down by Mr. Jeakes, of Russell-street, London.

It has also been found necessary to enclose part of the new shed near the stables to keep the straw dry for the bedding, this has been done at an expense of £11. 9s. 10d.

It was stated in the last Report that the new building had considerably exceeded Mr. Evans's estimate, and the Visitors are therefore compelled to ask for the sum of one hundred pounds to pay for the completion of the works, and the alterations of the steam.

Dr. Button, the new Superintendent, and Mrs. Button, the new Matron, entered on their duties on the 1st of November last, but Dr. Quick did not leave until December.

The same system has been continued during the last year, of employing the patients, with most satisfactory results. The work in the laundry and garden has been performed by patients under the superintendence of the keepers, and another year has added to the experience of former ones, that no accident has happened from the improper use of the tools with which they are intrusted. The shoes required in the Asylum have been made by two of the male patients, and the clothes repaired by others, and employment has been found for all those who are willing to work. The working fund has also been continued during the year, and the balance in hand now amounts to £12. 18s. 6d.

The attendance on divine worship has been regular and constant, and the behaviour of the patients most proper. It is however to be regretted that the room used as a chapel is so small, that it will not accommodate all those who wish to attend.

A small selection of books, to the amount of five pounds, was purchased for the use of the patients, but it has not been found that they have made much use of them, although they have been offered them to read. On Sundays however, prayer books and bibles are distributed, and they appear to read these with interest ; but although they have the opportunity on other days of obtaining them if they are inclined, they do not appear (with few exceptions) to take advantage of it.

In very few instances has any restraint been had recourse to during the last quarter, and then only for a few hours, by placing muffs on the hands, and this has been found sufficient. In one instance of a female disposed to suicide, this short restraint was accompanied by a marked benefit, as no attempt has since been made at self-destruction, and she expressed herself grateful that her hands had been confined—she has since been discharged cured.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Admitted during last quarter	5	5	10
Discharged	1	3	4
Died	1	1	2
Remaining in the Asylum at the end of the quarter	49	59	108
Admitted during the year	9	16	25
Discharged	3	9	12
Died	3	4	7
Admitted since the opening of the Asylum	133	168	301
Discharged	55	72	127
Died	28	37	65
Remaining in the Asylum, 25th December, 1840	49	59	108

One Male Patient was removed from this Asylum to Fort Clarence by order of the Secretary of War.

WORKING FUND.

£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Cash received, 77 18 7	Paid for materials and
Due for sundries, 2 3 6	indulgencies & gifts 67 3 7
	Balance in favor of the
	Fund 12 18 6
<u>£80 2 1</u>	<u>£80 2 1</u>

COUNTY BILLS.

	£.	s.	d.
Groves, (Carpenter)	5	18	8
Durden, (Plumber)	9	4	10
Northover, (Bricklayer)	4	16	0
Ditto,	0	10	6
Taxes,	4	14	0½
Tithes,	9	12	6
Harvey, (Ironmonger)	3	5	0

FURNITURE.

Curme & Mondey, (Flock)	9	12	6
Browning,	14	15	11
	£62	9	11½

The rate of maintenance for the last quarter has been ordered to be at 7s. per week.

The balance on the Contingent Fund is £69. 14s. 6d.

MOVE—That the sum of One Hundred Pounds be paid by the County Treasurer, to the Treasurer of the County Lunatic Asylum.

JAMES A. TEMPLER, Chairman.

TABLE I.

Form of Disease in the Cases of the 108 Patients at present in the Asylum.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
MANIA	- - - - -	10	17	
	with Epilepsy - - - -	4	2	
	with Paralysis - - - -	2	0	
		16	19	35
MELANCHOLIA	- - - - -	5	6	
	with Epilepsy - - - -	0	1	
	with Paralysis - - - -	0	1	
	with Occasional Violence -	0	6	
	Suicidal - - - - -	1	2	
		6	16	22
HYPOCHONDRIASIS	- - - - -	0	1	
		0	1	1
INCOHERENCE	- - - - -	5	14	
	with Epilepsy - - - -	0	1	
	with Paralysis - - - -	1	0	
	with Occasional Violence -	5	4	
	Suicidal - - - - -	0	1	
		11	20	31
IMBECILITY	- - - - -	3	0	
	Congenital - - - - -	0	1	
		3	1	4
DEMENTIA	- - - - -	10	2	
	with Epilepsy - - - -	1	0	
	with Paralysis - - - -	1	0	
		12	2	14
IDIOTCY	- - - - -	2	0	
		2	0	2

TABLE II.

Duration of the Disease in the Cases of the 108 Patients at present in the Asylum.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Not exceeding	6 months,	2	0	2
—	1 year,	1	3	4
—	2 years,	3	3	6
—	3 years,	5	5	10
—	4 years,	2	3	5
—	5 years,	3	1	4
—	6 years,	2	4	6
—	7 years,	0	4	4
—	8 years,	5	8	13
—	9 years,	6	3	9
—	10 years,	3	2	5
—	11 years,	0	6	6
—	12 years,	2	1	3
—	14 years,	1	1	2
—	15 years,	2	1	3
—	16 years,	1	0	1
—	17 years,	1	2	3
—	18 years,	0	1	1
—	19 years,	0	1	1
—	21 years,	1	2	3
—	23 years,	2	1	3
—	40 years,	0	1	1
Congenital,	6	3	9
		48	58	106
Not ascertained,	1	1	2
		49	59	108

TABLE III.

CAUSES ASSIGNED OR ASCERTAINED IN

MALES.

MORAL.	PHYSICAL.		
Reverses,	5	4	Hereditary Disposition, 11
Poverty,	2	4	
Disappointed Affections,	2		
Domestic Unhappiness,	1	2	
Religious Enthusiasm,	2	1	
		1	
		1	
		1	
		5	
	12	18	11

Not ascertained, 8.

TABLE IV.

CAUSES ASSIGNED OR ASCERTAINED IN

FEMALES.

MORAL.	PHYSICAL.			Hereditary Disposition,
	Childbirth,	Intemperance,	Injury of the Head,	
Poverty,	1	.	.	4
Domestic Unhappiness,	3	.	.	1
Religious Enthusiasm,	1	.	.	1
Reverses,	2	.	.	1
Fright,	7	.	.	3
Grief,	6	.	.	
Disappointed Affections,	8	.	.	
	28		10	14

Not ascertained, 7.

TABLE V.

Station or Occupation of the 108 Patients at present in the Asylum.

Males.		Females.	
Sailors	3	Book-keeper's Wife	1
Errand Boy	1	Servants	12
Soldier	1	Shopkeeper	1
Labourers	8	Upholsteress	1
Shoemakers	3	Sempstress	1
Farmers	3	House-keeper	1
Publicans	2	Button Makers	3
Thrasher	1	Shoemaker's Wife	1
Cooper	1	Thatcher's Wife	1
Quarrier	1	Game-keeper's Wife	1
Lime Burner	1	Publican's Wives	2
Tailors	3	Brewer's Wife	1
Carpenters	3	Baker's Wife	1
Gardener	1	Carpenter's Wife	1
Printer	1	Butcher's Wife	1
Draper	1	Labourer's Wives	4
Butcher	1	Soldier's Wife	1
Groom	1	Stone-mason's Wife	1
Hedger	1	Tinner's Wife	1
Grocer	1	Woodman's Wife	1
Blacksmiths	3	Blacksmith's Wife	1
Clerk	1	Shepherd's Wives	3
Gentlemen's Servants	3	Governess	1
	46	Gardener's Wives	3
Not ascertained	3	Charwomen	3
		Spinner	1
		Tailor's Wife	1
		Basket-maker	1
		Farmers' Daughters	2
		Dress-maker	1
		Carter's Wife	1
		Printer's Wife	1
			56
		Not ascertained	3
			59
	49		

TABLE VI.

Degree of Education of the 108 Patients at present in the Asylum.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Well Educated	-	-	-	3	4	7
Can Read and Write	-	-	-	23	21	44
Can Read	-	-	-	8	23	31
Cannot Read	-	-	-	15	11	26
				49	59	108

TABLE VII.

Religion of the Patients at present in the Asylum.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Church of England	-	-	-	38	47	85
Wesleyan Methodist	-	-	-	1	0	1
Independents	-	-	-	0	5	5
Baptist	-	-	-	1	0	1
Unitarian	-	-	-	0	1	1
Ranter	-	-	-	0	1	1
				40	54	94
Not ascertained	-	-	-	9	5	14
				49	59	108

TABLE VIII.

Proportion of the Married and Single at present in the Asylum.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Married	-	-	-	21	26	47
Single	-	-	-	28	33	61
				49	59	108

TABLE IX.

Ages of the 108 Patients at present in the Asylum.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
From	20 to 25	—	—	—	2	1	3
—	25 to 30	—	—	—	4	4	8
—	30 to 35	—	—	—	6	5	11
—	35 to 40	—	—	—	5	7	12
—	40 to 45	—	—	—	9	5	14
—	45 to 50	—	—	—	6	8	14
—	50 to 55	—	—	—	6	6	12
—	55 to 60	—	—	—	5	8	13
—	60 to 65	—	—	—	1	7	8
—	65 to 70	—	—	—	3	2	5
—	70 to 75	—	—	—	1	4	5
—	75 to 80	—	—	—	0	1	1
—	80 to 85	—	—	—	1	1	2
					49	59	108

TABLE X.

Duration of the Disorder in the Cases admitted during the year.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Not exceeding	3 months	—	—	—	2	1	3
—	6 months	—	—	—	2	2	4
—	1 year	—	—	—	1	3	4
—	2 years	—	—	—	1	3	4
—	3 years	—	—	—	2	1	3
—	8 years	—	—	—	0	1	1
—	14 years	—	—	—	0	1	1
—	16 years	—	—	—	0	1	1
—	17 years	—	—	—	0	1	1
—	21 years	—	—	—	0	1	1
					8	15	23
Congenital	—	—	—	—	0	1	1
Not ascertained	—	—	—	—	1	0	1
					9	16	25

TABLE XI.

Duration of the Disorder in the Cases of the 12 Patients Discharged Cured in the year ending Dec. 25th, 1840.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Not exceeding	3 months	—	—	1	3	4
—	6 months	—	—	0	1	1
—	2 years	—	—	2	1	3
—	3 years	—	—	0	2	2
—	21 years	—	—	0	2	2
				3	9	12

TABLE XII.

Duration of Insanity in the Cases of the 7 Patients who have Died during the year ending Dec. 25th, 1840.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Not exceeding	3 years	—	—	0	1	1
—	4 years	—	—	1	1	2
—	5 years	—	—	0	1	1
—	8 years	—	—	0	1	1
—	10 years	—	—	1	0	1
—	32 years	—	—	1	0	1
				3	4	7

TABLE XIII.

Ages of the 7 Patients who have Died during the year ending Dec. 25th, 1840.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
From	50 to 55	—	—	—	2	2	4
—	65 to 70	—	—	—	0	1	1
—	70 to 75	—	—	—	0	1	1
—	75 to 80	—	—	—	1	0	1
					3	4	7

ACCOUNT OF PATIENTS EMPLOYED.

MALES.		FEMALES.	
Garden and Agriculture	8	Laundry - - - -	9
Helpers - - - -	6	Kitchen - - - -	3
Picking Flock - -	12	Helpers - - - -	6
Tailors - - - -	2	Straw Platting - -	6
Shoemakers - - -	2	Needle Work - - -	23
Stable - - - -	1		
Attending Steam Boiler	1	Employed - - -	47
Pumping Water - -	2	Unemployed - -	6
		Sick - - - -	6
Employed - - -	34		
Unemployed - -	12		
Sick - - - -	3		
Total in Asylum	49	Total in Asylum	59

Males - - - 49
 Females - - - 59

108

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT,

		£.	s.	d.
Amount received from Parishes	— — —	1859	17	6
Received from Mr. Browne's Benefaction Fund		135	0	0

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for the Year ending December 25th, 1840.

	£.	s.	d.
Meat, Suet, &c. — — — — —	299	6	10
Bread — — — — —	322	10	0
Flour — — — — —	69	2	6
Butter — — — — —	29	13	8
Rice, Oatmeal and Pease — — — — —	36	2	6
Drugs, Surgery, &c. — — — — —	28	2	8
Cheese — — — — —	76	17	2
Soap — — — — —	20	7	5
Grocery — — — — —	52	18	2
Candles — — — — —	11	10	7
Coals — — — — —	138	15	6
Hay, Straw, Corn, and Pollard — — —	93	13	2
Garden Labor, Seeds, &c. — — — — —	55	6	7
Wine and Spirits — — — — —	6	0	2
Malt and Hops — — — — —	132	0	0
Brooms, Brushes, Cooperage, &c. — — —	17	3	0
Linen, Clothing, and Bedding, — — —	107	0	2
Tin and Earthenware, Ironmongery, &c. —	27	14	7
Stationary, Postage, and Carriage — — —	25	5	3
Sundries — — — — —	32	15	4
	1582	5	3
Officers' Salaries and Servants' Wages — —	406	11	0
	1988	16	3
Balance paid to Contingent Fund — —	6	1	3
	£1994	17	6

G. P. BUTTON, M. D.

SUPERINTENDENT.

